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**PUBLIC
SAFETY
UPDATE**

**“By making the
COPS program
permanent, SB 823
will ensure that the
COPS program
remains a successful
crime prevention
tool for local law
enforcement.”**

-Chuck Poochigian

MARCH 20, 2001

Senator Charles S. Poochigian



Capitol Update

COPS AND CRIME PREVENTION FUNDING UPDATE

Today the Senate Public Safety Committee unanimously approved Senate Bill 823 (Poochigian) which makes permanent the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) program. In addition to COPS, the bill makes permanent funding for local juvenile justice programs established in the 2000 legislative session. Together, these programs will provide local communities over \$240 million annually for their effort to reduce crime in local neighborhoods.

Background:

The current COPS program is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2002. Local law enforcement agencies have indicated that many agencies have not used COPS funding to hire additional front-line officers because it is an uncertain revenue stream. Since its inception, the COPS program has been authorized for only two years at a time. In addition, many of the juvenile justice programs created or expanded as the result of funding in AB 1913 have been designed to be long-term programs. A limited timeline will make it difficult for local agencies to hire quality staff and program managers.

Making the COPS program permanent will enable local enforcement to dedicate COPS funding to hire front line officers. Making the juvenile justice prevention program funding permanent will enable prevention programs to work toward long term prevention goals.

Senate Bill 823 will now move to the Senate floor for consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.